



John McCoy

State Representative

Reports from the Capital

38th Legislative District

Committees:

Higher Education
Trade & Economic Development
Commerce & Labor

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Dear Neighbor:

Thank you for your interest in my report on major activities in the 2003 Legislative Session.

It is an honor to serve all of the citizens and each of our towns and neighborhoods. **Whether you're from Everett, Marysville, Tulalip, or one of the other surrounding communities of Snohomish County - you have a lot riding on what happens in Olympia.** So I do hope that you'll always be an informed participant in the process.

Working Together - that's what it takes to strengthen our towns, our state, and our country. It's a team effort. And it's a **bipartisan** effort, as well! Improving our schools, fostering our economic development, and providing the other essential services for our Washington citizens - that's what made me want to serve in the first place. As one of your legislators, I promise to work **with** you. Always.

Derek Baker is my legislative assistant. Derek and I look forward to seeing what you think about these and other issues. We want to know your opinions about the Legislature, about state government, and about anything else that's on your mind.

All the best,

John McCoy
State Representative
38th Legislative District

Budget: I wanted a fair, balanced compromise in this policy. But that did not happen

It took overtime this year before a legislative majority came together to pass a compromise budget - and I wasn't one of the "Yes" votes on the proposal.

Going into session, I certainly knew that any budget idea that came before me wouldn't reflect **every** single one of my principles. But I didn't think that the final budget bill would be so far off the mark - so I voted against it.

The bottom line is that I refused to support an operating budget that sacrifices services for so many children, elderly citizens, and other people who can't take care of themselves.

Exploiting programs - cutting human services that should be provided in a 21st century society - is no way to balance a budget. It's better to write a realistic, sustainable budget - or any other piece of legislation - than to slam something through just to get the legislative session over.

In my opinion, a new budget must ensure quality, dependable public education, as well as public health and safety. And it must provide lasting economic recovery to keep people and businesses working.

These two objectives **do not** have to be mutually exclusive!

Further, and also very importantly, I could not vote for a budget that shortchanges home-care workers (who bargained collectively for their well-deserved raise) and teachers (who, like home-care workers, are doing some of our most important jobs).

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Youth: Building a youngster's character isn't child's play. It's our biggest duty

I won support for legislation boosting nonprofit youth organizations in Snohomish County and in other communities.

The new policy sets up a grant program - my intent is to help Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, and similar organizations. Character-building should always be our No. 1 priority. Character, leadership skills and self-esteem will put our kids in good shape to deal with challenges they'll face later in life.

The Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development will work with an advisory committee in considering grant applications from nonprofit organizations. Applications will be accepted from groups pursuing indoor projects - including construction of new facilities or rehabilitation of existing facilities. The projects are limited to dollar amounts of no more than \$2 million - and the state-assistance portion can't be more than 25 percent of the total cost.

Project proposals must possess a large recreational component - and they must also include educational and social-service activities.

Instead of getting into trouble or playing video games all day, kids can play sports, improve their physical fitness, and do other activities with their young peers to learn what it means to be a member of the community.

Public safety: We need to make sure fire-protection sprinklers are installed properly

I was gratified to win support for my plan putting teeth in our law on fire-protection sprinklers.

The legislation sets stronger civil penalties to discourage scofflaw sprinkler-system contractors. Our state fire marshal will implement regulations that detail infractions and levy fines against contractors who violate safety rules.

Before the new law, policies on the books for these sprinklers didn't carry much punch in terms of civil punishment. In some cases, the fire marshal couldn't even address serious violations of personal-safety and property-preservation law because the violations didn't rise to the level of a criminal offence.

So now, the fire marshal can draw up a civil penalty implemented statewide. These penalties will be set for contractors who either commit infractions or don't obtain certificates of competency.

Prescriptions: Volunteer drug-reform plan is aimed at bringing health costs down

This session, landmark new policy seized the day to create a system for buying equal-quality prescription drugs at better prices.

Eligible, interested citizens and organizations will form a consortium to achieve group-buying power - thus forcing down the cost of medications. Medicaid recipients, state employees and injured workers will work together to create the consortium. Individual businesses can join the program if they want - but it's strictly up to them.

The bill sets up a preferred-drug list written by an independent group of pharmacists and doctors. If your drug isn't on the list, your doctor would write "dispense as written" on your prescription. Drugstores must follow this direction when reviewing a prescription that isn't on the preferred list.

Specific help for senior citizens is an important component in this reform. Senior citizens will have access to toll-free hotlines and community forums created to make sure they know about drug-discount programs.

Boeing: Good-paying jobs are sought in measures boosting economic development

Boeing captured a lot of attention this legislative session - and rightly so. Thousands of Snohomish County people and other families across Washington make a good living working for Boeing.

Right now, the airplane company is deciding whether to build their new 7E7 - and where to build it if the answer to that first question is "Yes." Maybe, hopefully, they'll pick Everett. One thing for sure: Governor Locke and a number of other folks - yours truly included - have pulled out all the stops to make sure the state of Washington has a decent chance to land this big new job.

The House Democratic Caucus has established a Boeing Task Force to make sure we get that decent chance. No, we're not going to just sign the state treasury over to Boeing. **But we are going to do everything reasonably possible to make sure the best airplane company in the world stays right here in the best state in the country!**

In this year's legislative session, the House approved legislation to make sure our state is "Boeing-friendly." We passed tax credits to make Washington more competitive in the race for the 7E7.

And by the way: We want to be a friendly state for **all** businesses.

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Citizens of all ages visit our state capital. I was proud to join my colleagues in welcoming Quil Ceda Elementary School youngsters, for instance, when they came down to see us in January.



Economic development has always been right near the top of our agenda. For example, we have set the wheels in motion for dramatic improvements in the transportation system. This work is one of the key items on the list that Boeing cited as pivotal in the company's 7E7-decision-making process.

Transportation: Projects will help keep citizens and businesses moving efficiently

We passed an historic transportation-investment and revenue package that emphasizes getting the most-needed projects completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Our new transportation directions focus on safety and preservation of existing infrastructure - as well as relieving congestion that's hurting both our economy and our quality of life.

The House also passed a plan to increase accountability in our transportation system through reforms such as performance audits of the Department of Transportation, improvements in citizen oversight of the system, and streamlining the permitting process for key projects. We also endorsed House legislation – which the Senate unfortunately failed to act on – to trim the bureaucracy by eliminating the Transportation Commission and giving the governor the power (and accountability!) to hire and fire the secretary of the Department of Transportation.

Here are some top projects discussed in our Snohomish County region:

- **Everett. Interstate 5/Everett** - State Route 526 to U.S.

Highway 2. HOV lanes. Construct HOV lanes in each direction on Interstate 5 between State Route 526 and Marine View Drive, build auxiliary lanes between the 41st Street interchange and U.S. Highway 2, and move the Broadway offramp to the right side.

- **South of Arlington. State Route 9** - State Route 528 intersection. Install a signal at the State Route 9/State Route 528 intersection and extend the right-turn and left-turn lanes as needed.
- **North of Marysville. State Route 9** - 108th Street Northeast (Lauck Road). Widen State Route 9 for a northbound left-turn lane, a southbound left-turn lane, and a southbound right-turn lane. Install illumination and update signing.
- **Everett. State Route 522** - Snohomish River to U.S. Highway 2. Four-lane widening. Construct two additional lanes on a new alignment to form a four-lane highway. Five bridges will be constructed for the new roadway, including a one-third-mile bridge across the Snohomish River.

Construction: Local activities set to improve our regional infrastructure

Our colleges and our other local treasures make up a huge part of the solid infrastructure we need to attract new businesses - and to keep the ones we have now.

There's no getting around it: Businesses check a community's infrastructure (and that includes our colleges)

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whenever the businesses are deciding whether to expand existing operations - or get going with new ones.

In fact, the bipartisan capital budget we passed this year features many projects in our Snohomish County communities. These projects aim to support our working families and our working businesses - to improve our Snohomish County quality of life. Here's a sampling of the projects:

- **Assistance League.** Acquire property in Everett to develop 24,000-square-foot facility to house programs.
- **YMCA/Snohomish County.** Acquire adjacent facility and construct 4,100-square-foot of new space in Marysville. Facilities will become part of the Teen, Family & Child Development Center.
- **Everett Community College.** Pilchuck/Glacier. Design 44,213-square-foot, multiuse facility for visual and performing arts. Allows an integrated curriculum with maximum efficiency.
- **Everett Community College.** Renovation of Monte Cristo Hall. Renovation and addition (8,000 square feet) to the building (constructed in 1958) to support the science program. Reconfigure and expand the chemistry/physics labs and classrooms, allowing enrollment to meet demand.
- **Everett Community College.** Undergraduate-education center. Predesign for potential 60,000-square-foot building expanding capacity - and supporting current and projected enrollment of transfer students. Twenty-four classrooms and labs, a large lecture classroom, staff support and faculty offices will facilitate partnership with four-year universities. May include additional parking. A 10,000-square-foot addition to the Early Learning Center is also proposed.

Schools: Senate stymies 'simple majority' proposal to boost our local classrooms

Over the years, Snohomish County communities have captured a clear majority of votes for local-school levies – only to see their measures fail because vote totals fell short of the 60-percent “super-majority” support required in current law.

Sadly, this levy frustration for local-school supporters won't be ending any time soon. We passed legislation in the House by a wide margin to change this unfair law – but unfortunately, the Senate refused to move the measure that we endorsed.

Get involved! Please attend a Town Hall – and tell me what's on your mind

I always look forward to hearing what my fellow citizens are thinking - it helps me do a better job representing our neighborhoods and communities!

Saturday, July 26

10 a.m.
Everett Senior Activity Center
3025 Lombard Avenue
Everett

Tuesday, July 29

7 p.m.
Marysville Public Library
6120 Grove Street
Marysville